ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORLDS

MAR. No. 16

10¢

ENTER THESE WEIRD WORLDS

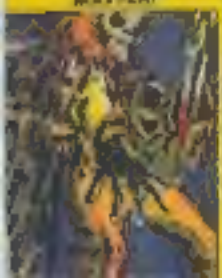
ON SALE EVERY MONTH

ATLAS

"THE FLYING SAUCER"

"THE SURPRISE"

"MIND OVER MATTER!"



"THE KISS OF DEATH!"

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STAN LEE PRESENTS: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY™

KISS OF DEATH

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN WEIRD WORLDS #16

I CAN'T DO IT... I CAN'T! BUT I'LL GO MAD IF I DON'T!
JOHN, THE INSURANCE DOCTOR IS HERE TO EXAMINE YOU FOR THE NEW POLICY! WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOHN?
CAPTAIN KIDD'S GOLD
WIFE
BARNABY'S BONES
ZOMBIE ZOO

THIS NEW WEIRD STORY... IT JUST WON'T GO! I CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE IT MOVE...
PERHAPS AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE DOCTOR YOU'LL FEEL BETTER! COME ALONG NOW!

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KISSING YOU WILL MAKE ME FEEL BETTER... IT ALWAYS DOES...
HIS KISSES...HOW I HATE THEM... HATE HIM, TOO!
O.K., LET'S GO SEE THE DOCTOR NOW AND GET THAT NEW INSURANCE POLICY! LET'S SEE... I HAVE $16,000, NOW... THIS 10 WILL MAKE IT $ 26,000!
I THOUGHT HE WAS A BIG SHOT WRITER AND I'D HAVE EVERYTHING! THAT'S WHY I MARRIED HIM! INSTEAD IT'S BEEN A HAND TO MOUTH EXISTENCE... NOT A CENT SAVED, EXCEPT THE INSURANCE...
I'M AT YOUR DISPOSAL, DOCTOR!
GOOD! PLEASE REMOVE YOUR SHIRT, MR. ASHBY!
HE SAT THERE DURING THE EXAMINATION, SMILING AT THE WIFE HE LOVED SO WELL! BUT HE KNEW WHAT THE DOCTOR'S VERDICT WOULD BE... HE HAD KNOWN IT FOR THE PAST MONTH...
HMMM! ALL RIGHT, MR. ASHBY, YOU CAN GET DRESSED NOW!
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL GET NO MORE INSURANCE, MR. ASHBY! YOUR HEART IS VERY BAD! YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT EASY FROM NOW ON! ANY BAD EMOTIONAL SHOCK MIGHT PROVE FATAL...
IT...IT'S NOT TOO MUCH OF A SURPRISE TO ME, DOCTOR! I SUSPECTED AS MUCH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU... I WAS WORRIED ENOUGH MYSELF! THAT'S WHY THE STORY IS GOING SO BADLY!
GIVE ME A KISS, DEAR AND...
NO... NOT NOW, JOHN! PLEASE... YOU GO BACK TO YOUR WORK! I MUST THINK!

THE AVENGERS— CAPTURED BY KLAW AND SOLARR? IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!

YES, LILLIAN ASHBY HAD TO THINK...THINK OF A WAY TO TWIST THIS NEW, MACABRE ELEMENT TO HER OWN, MEAN ADVANTAGE!
NOW HE WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THIS HANGING OVER HIM! HE'LL BECOME AN INVALID, AND I'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM! NO, I WON'T DO IT... BUT IF I WALK OUT ON HIM, DIVORCE HIM, I'LL BE LEFT WITHOUT A CENT...
THE INSURANCE... $16,000 WORTH... THAT WILL GIVE ME A GOOD START! THE DOCTOR SAID ANY SHOCK COULD KILL HIM! THAT'S IT! NOW I MUST FIND A WAY TO PROVIDE THAT SHOCK WHICH WILL KILL HIM WITHOUT AROUSING HIS SUSPICIONS...
IT TOOK HER A WEEK...A WEEK OF DEVIOUS PLANNING...AND THEN IT WAS DONE...
HOW IS IT GOING, JOHN?
IT ISN'T GOING AT ALL! I WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU IF THIS HEART OF MINE CONKS OUT...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, JOHN! WHAT YOU NEED IS A CHANGE OF SCENERY...A NEW, CONDUCIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR YOUR WEIRD KIND OF WRITING... AND I'VE ARRANGED THE WHOLE THING...
YOU'VE WHAT?
I'VE RENTED AN OLD HOUSE UP IN THE CATSKILLS! IT'S BEEN VACANT FOR YEARS! LEGEND HAS IT THAT A FAMILY OF VAMPIRES ONCE LIVED THERE! IT'S REALLY A WEIRD PLACE... JUST THE ATMOSPHERE TO MAKE YOU WORK WELL!
YOU DARLING... YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING!
THEY MOVED OUT TO THE OLD HOUSE THE NEXT DAY! IT WAS ISOLATED, OVERGROWN WITH VINES AND WEEDS, LYING LIKE A BLEACHED SKULL IN THE DYING SUNLIGHT!
WELL, IT SURE HAS THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE FOR A WRITER OF WEIRD STORIES!
DOESN'T IT! YOU'LL WORK WELL HERE, JOHN! THEY SAY VAMPIRES STILL PROWL HERE...THAT'S WHY IT'S NEVER BEEN BOUGHT OR RENTED!
I JUST HAD ENOUGH OF IT CLEANED UP FOR OUR WANTS! THE REST OF THE PLACE I LEFT AS IT'S BEEN FOR YEARS!
THE DRIVE FROM TOWN HAS TIRED ME! I'LL EXPLORE THE PLACE WHILE YOU FIX DINNER, THEN I'LL WORK A BIT AND TURN IN EARLY...

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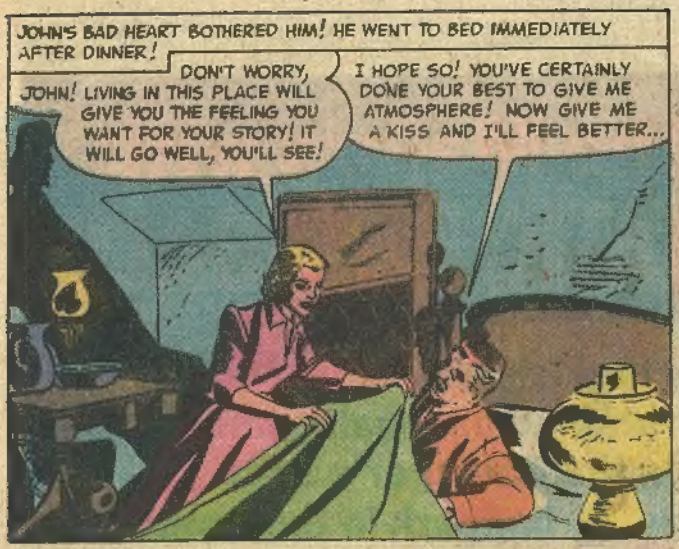
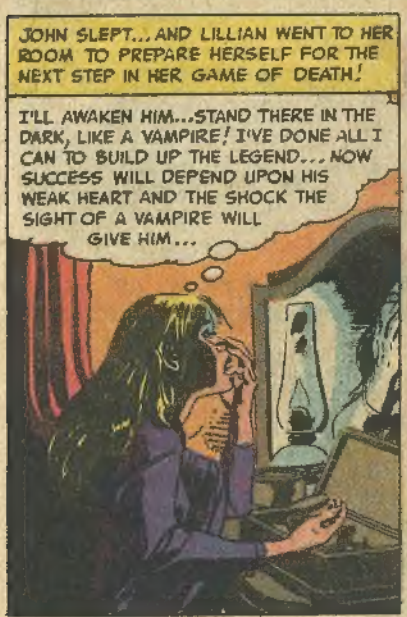

JOHN'S BAD HEART BOTHERED HIM! HE WENT TO BED IMMEDIATELY AFTER DINNER!
DON'T WORRY, JOHN! LIVING IN THIS PLACE WILL GIVE YOU THE FEELING YOU WANT FOR YOUR STORY! IT WILL GO WELL, YOU'LL SEE!
I HOPE SO! YOU'VE CERTAINLY DONE YOUR BEST TO GIVE ME ATMOSPHERE! NOW GIVE ME A KISS AND I'LL FEEL BETTER...

GOOD NIGHT, DEAR LILLIAN!
I COULD SCREAM EVERY TIME HE KISSES ME, I HATE HIM SO! BUT PERHAPS THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME HE KISSES ME...


JOHN SLEPT... AND LILLIAN WENT TO HER ROOM TO PREPARE HERSELF FOR THE NEXT STEP IN HER GAME OF DEATH!
I'LL AWAKEN HIM...STAND THERE IN THE DARK, LIKE A VAMPIRE! I'VE DONE ALL I CAN TO BUILD UP THE LEGEND... NOW SUCCESS WILL DEPEND UPON HIS WEAK HEART AND THE SHOCK THE SIGHT OF A VAMPIRE WILL GIVE HIM...

LILLIAN... WHERE THE DEVIL DID YOU GET THAT MAKE-UP? YOU FOOLISH, LITTLE DEAR! THIS IS CARRYING THAT ATMOSPHERE THING A LITTLE TOO FAR! I'M SLEEPY... KISS ME AND GO TO BED...
4

WE CALL THEM THE ELEMENTALS— AND THEY'RE AFTER THE **LIVING MUMMY!**

AN HOUR PASSED! JOHN HEARD HIS NAME CALLED AGAIN! THIS TIME HE OPENED ONLY ONE EYE, NOT WISHING TO DISTURB THE COMFORTING EMBRACE OF SLEEP...
AW, LILLIAN... NOT AGAIN! GO TO BED, DARLING... I DON'T NEED ANY MORE ATMOSPHERE... I NEED SLEEP...

HIS HEAD SUNK DEEPER INTO THE PILLOW... HIS MIND FLED AWAY TO THE DEEP PURPLE SHADOWS OF SLEEP... VAGUELY HE FELT HER LEAN TOWARD HIM... FELT HER LIPS CARESS HIS NECK... HE SLEPT...

THE NEXT MORNING JOHN FELT REFRESHED, REVITALIZED... GONE WAS THE TIRED, WORRIED MAN OF YESTERDAY...
BREAKFAST IS READY, JOHN!
GOOD! I'M STARVED! Y'KNOW THIS PLACE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO ME! I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN... HEALTHY AS A HORSE! HAVEN'T FELT AS WELL IN YEARS!

THAT'S FUNNY! I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE TWO MARKS BEFORE! LOOKS LIKE... LIKE THE MARKS OF A VAMPIRE... HUH, WRITING ALL THOSE WEIRD STORIES IS BEGINNING TO GET ME!

THE STORY WENT WELL THAT DAY! JOHN WORKED ON AND ON, THROUGHOUT THE DAY!
HE DOES LOOK BETTER! STRONGER! I'VE GOT TO TRY AGAIN TONIGHT... TRY TO KILL HIM... SCARE HIM TO DEATH! I CAN'T LET HIM GET BETTER...

THE DAY WAS GONE! THE FLUTTERING LAMPS CAST SPECTRAL SHADOWS ON THE WALL... IT WAS TIME FOR SLEEP AGAIN...
GOOD NIGHT, DEAR! SLEEP WELL!
GOOD NIGHT, JOHN!
5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

LILLIAN HAD NEVER SEEN HER HUSBAND LOOKING SO WELL...SO FILLED WITH ENERGY! DESPERATELY SHE HAD TO TRY AGAIN THAT NIGHT TO MAKE HIS SICKLY HEART STOP BEATING BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE FOR--DEATH!
SHE BENT OVER TO CALL HIM, HER BODY TENSE, WILLING HIM TO DIE...THEN SHE FELT THE HAND TOUCH HER SHOULDER...
EEEIIII! JOHN! JOHN!
...YES, YES, LILLIAN! WHAT IS IT?
JOHN, THE LEGENDS...THEY WERE TRUE! IT IS A VAMPIRE! A TRUE VAMPIRE! JOHN, BELIEVE ME IT'S NO TRICK TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE! OH, JOHN!
I KNOW, LILLIAN! I KNOW!
YOU KNOW?
YES! SHE CAME TO ME LAST NIGHT AFTER YOU HAD LEFT IN YOUR SILLY DISGUISE! I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU! BUT THIS MORNING I SAW THE MARKS OF HER KISS ON MY NECK! NOW I KNOW! SHE CAME TO ME...AND NOW I AM STRONG AND FREE... AS SHE IS!
NO! NO!
YES, MY DARLING LILLIAN! NOW I SHALL KISS YOU, AS I'VE ALWAYS DONE...THOSE KISSES THAT MEANT SO MUCH TO ME! BUT THIS WILL BE OUR LAST KISS, AS I KNOW NOW, YOU WANTED IT TO BE...
THE KISS OF DEATH...
THE END

MIND OVER MATTER

FOR LONG MONTHS NONE OF GORDON LANGLEY'S FRIENDS KNEW WHERE HE WAS... AND THE LAST PLACE IN THE WORLD THEY WOULD HAVE LOOKED FOR HIM WAS IN A TEMPLE DEEP IN THE INTERIOR OF MYSTERIOUS INDIA!

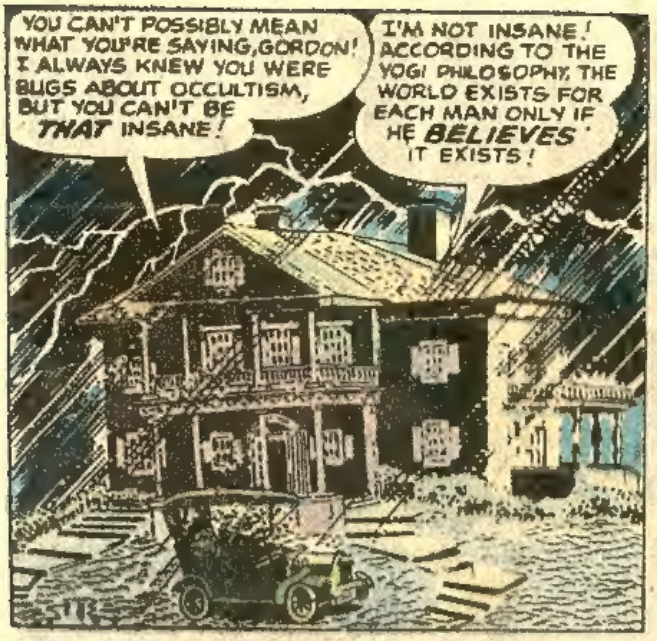
BUT ONE DAY GORDON LANGLEY RETURNED TO WHAT WE CALL "CIVILIZATION"...

GORDON! COME IN, COME IN! WHERE IN BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN HIBERNATING ALL THESE MONTHS?

I'VE BEEN IN INDIA, ALLEN... BUT I'VE SCARCELY BEEN HIBERNATING!

I LIVED WITH A SECT OF YOGIS WHO INITIATED ME INTO THEIR SECRETS... AND TAUGHT ME THE POWER OF MAKING OBJECTS VANISH AT WILL!

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN WEIRD WORLDS #16.


YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY MEAN WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, GORDON! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE BUGS ABOUT OCCULTISM, BUT YOU CAN'T BE THAT INSANE!
I'M NOT INSANE! ACCORDING TO THE YOGI PHILOSOPHY, THE WORLD EXISTS FOR EACH MAN ONLY IF HE BELIEVES IT EXISTS!

HA...AND WHAT HAPPENS IF ANYONE DOUBTS THAT IT EXISTS?
IF ANYONE WITH MY YOGI TRAINING HAS THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT ANY OBJECT EXISTS, THAT OBJECT INSTANTLY CEASES TO EXIST... AND VANISHES!

WHAT UTTER ROT!
THINK SO? WATCH! I DOUBT WHETHER THAT CHANDELIER EXISTS...

GREAT SCOTT! THE CHANDELIER... IT... IT'S GONE!
BELIEVE ME NOW?

NO, I... DON'T BELIEVE IT REALLY HAPPENED! IF IT DID, I... I'D GO MAD! I'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF, I'VE GOT TO FIND AN EXPLANATION!

WAIT... I UNDERSTAND IT ALL NOW! YOU'VE GONE MAD WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE SUCH GODLIKE POWERS, GORDON! YOUR INSANITY HAS MADE YOU BLIND TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE CHANDELIER!
BUT LOOK UP THERE, MAN! YOU DON'T SEE IT, DO YOU?

IF I DON'T, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOUR HALLUCINATION IS SO STRONG THAT I'VE TEMPORARILY CAUGHT IT! IF THERE WERE OTHERS IN THE ROOM, IT WOULD BE A CASE OF MASS HALLUCINATION!
SO YOU THINK I'M CRAZY, EH? I'LL SHOW YOU...!

WATCH! I DON'T BELIEVE THAT CURIO CLOSET EXISTS...
SNAP
MY... MY MING DYNASTY VASES... SMASHED!
SMASH
CRASH
I'LL GIVE YOU EVEN MORE PROOF... MORE THAN YOU NEED! I DOUBT WHETHER THAT BOOKCASE EXISTS..
THWROCK
OHHH!
THUD
AND I DOUBT WHETHER THAT TABLE EXISTS... THOSE CHAIRS, LAMPS, BOOKS, PICTURES... THAT RUG, PHONOGRAPH, DESK...
...THAT COUCH, THOSE DRAPES AND TAPESTRIES, THAT PIANO .
STOP IT.. STOP IT!

THERE! BELIEVE ME NOW?
ALL...ALL MY FURNISHINGS... GONE!

IF.. IF IT WERE JUST HALLUCINATION, I'D BE ABLE TO FEEL MY PERSIAN RUG.. BUT I CAN'T! THERE'S REALLY NOTHING THERE..SO THAT MEANS EVERYTHING YOU SAID IS TRUE, GORDON!

I.. I'VE GOT TO STEADY MY NERVES! THIS IS THE MOST SHOCKING AND FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE I'VE EVER HAD.. ITS IMPLICATIONS ARE TERRIFYING!
TERRIFYING! WHY?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU'VE JUST PROVED THAT NOTHING IS REAL IN THIS WORLD. EVERY OBJECT IS JUST A FIGMENT OF OUR IMAGINATIONS... IT'S ALL IN OUR MINDS! NOTHING REALLY EXISTS NOT EVEN YOU AND I!

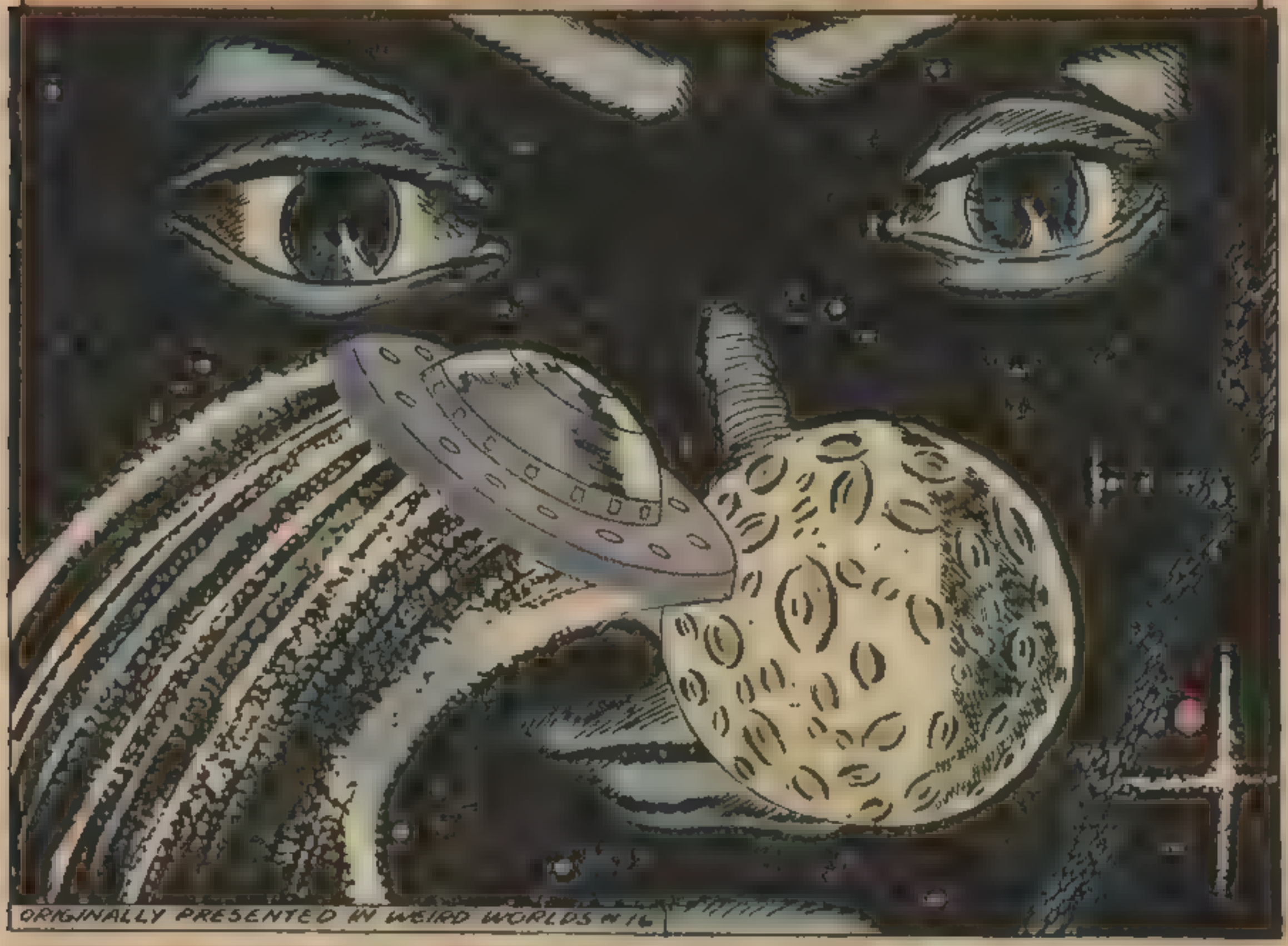
HUH? I. I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! MAYBE WE DON'T REALLY EXIST...

MAYBE WE DON'T!

SOME PEOPLE JUST HAVEN'T GOT AN IMAGINATION... SO WHY BOTHER TELLING THEM YOU'VE ACTUALLY SEEN A...

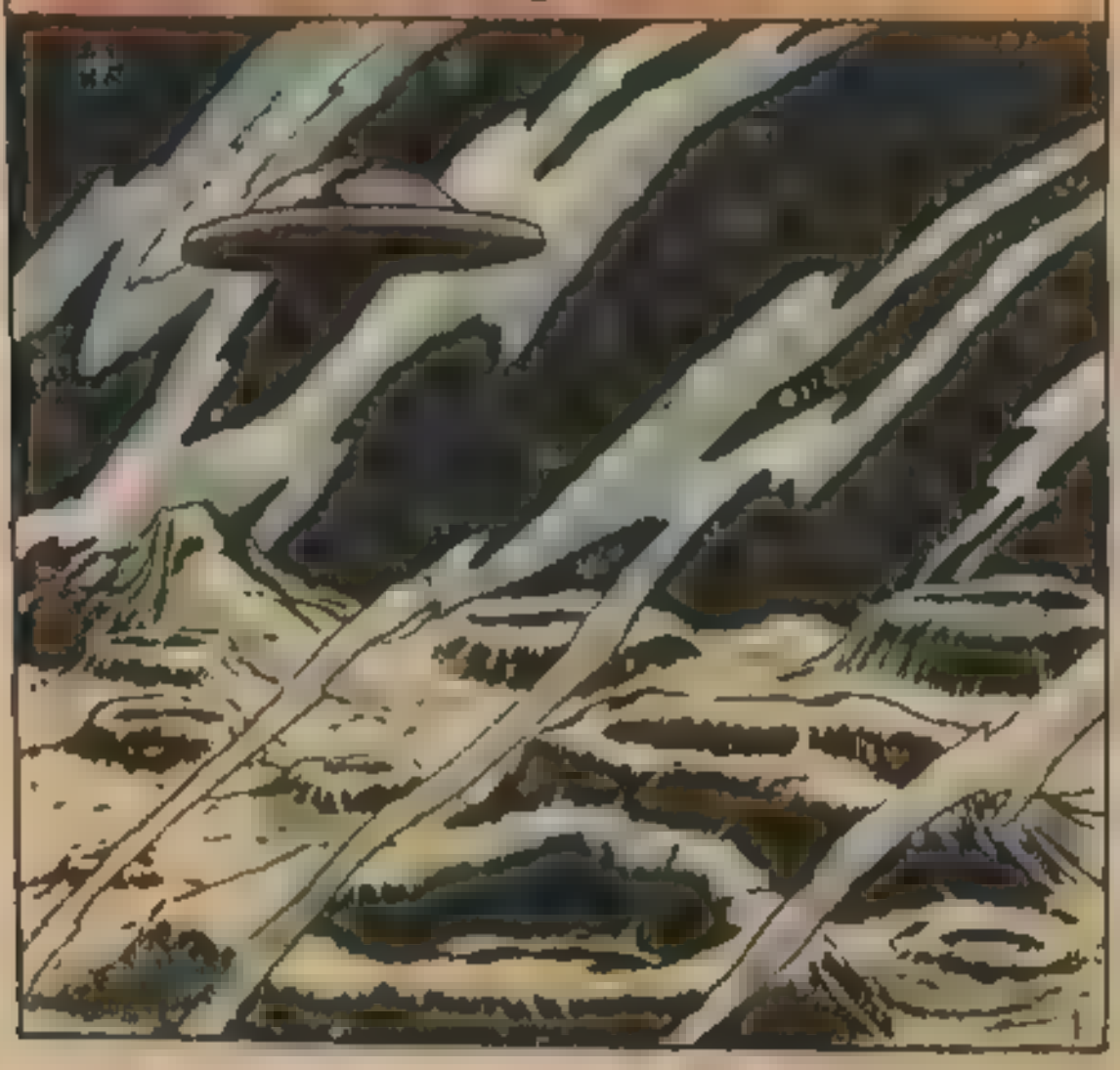
FLYING SAUCER

OUT OF THE INKY WASTE IT COMES.. TWISTING, DIVING, DIPPING... MAKING A PIONEER PATH THROUGH UNCHARTED SPACE!

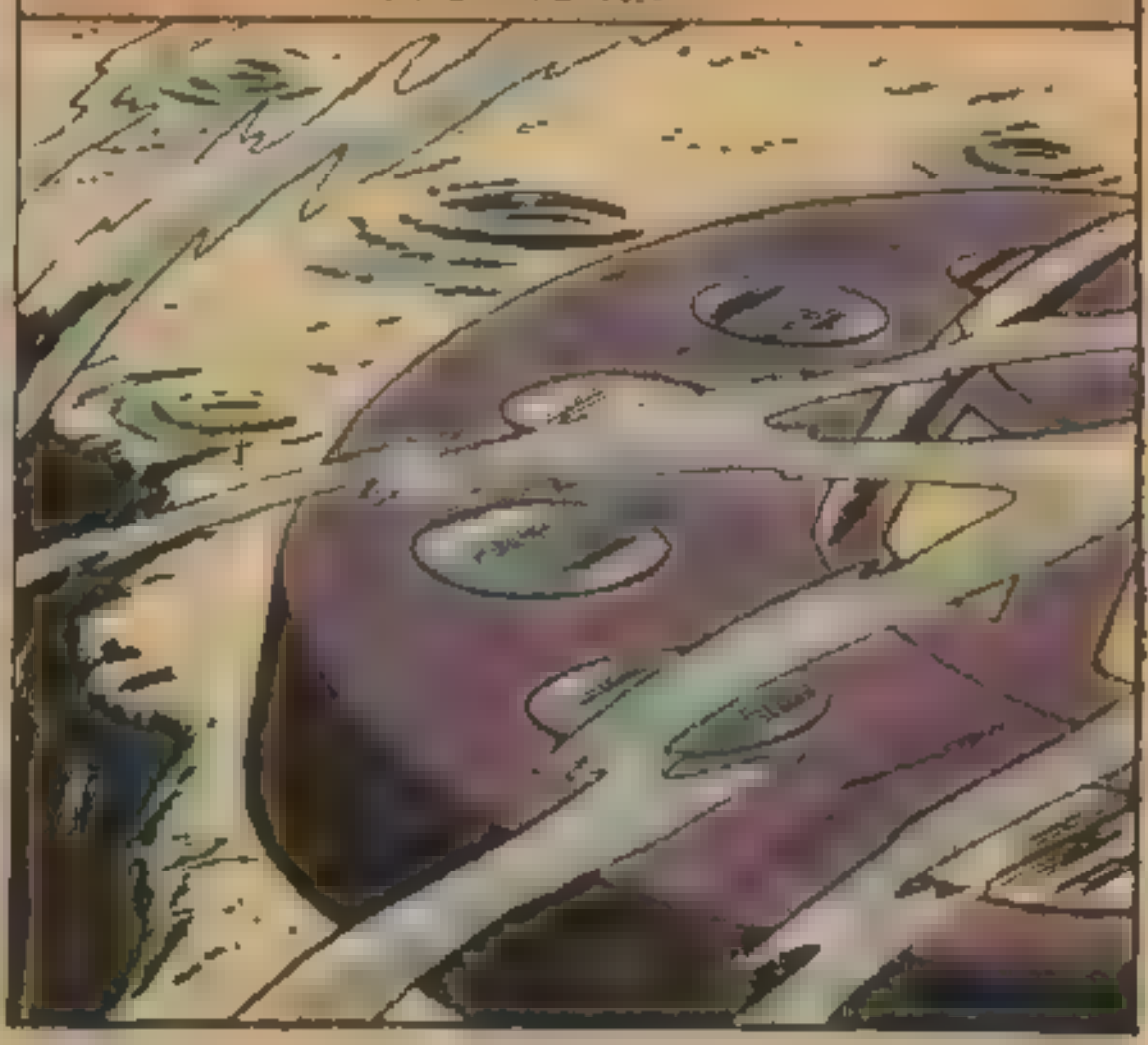


ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN WEIRD WORLDS #16

AND NOW ITS TERRIFIC SPEED CUTS DOWN TO A MINIMUM .. IT HOVERS GENTLY



THEN IT COMES TO A FINAL HALT.. AS IT RESTS WITH SKILLED AND DELICATE BALANCE ON THE LIP OF A CRATER...



JOURNEY'S END! BUT NO... IT'S MERELY THE BEGINNING... OF STRANGE AND TERRIFYING ADVENTURES! FOR NOW THE HATCHES ARE OPENING.

SMALL MEN WEIRD AS A SURREALIST'S NIGHTMARE, CAUTIOUSLY EMERGE

AND YOU, SITTING HERE SO ENTRANCED FROM A SAFE OBSERVER'S POST, WATCH FASCINATED!

YOU'RE HYPNOTIZED. SPELLBOUND! AND, AS YOU WATCH, REAL TERROR STEALS INTO YOUR HEART

..TERROR BASED ON REALITY!

YES, IT'S TOO REAL! TOO REAL!

NO! NO! DON'T LET THEM COME!

HEY, TAKE IT EASY, BUDDY! IT'S ONLY A PICTURE...

I'M SORRY! I GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY FOR A MOMENT...

YOU KIDDING? THIS IS JUST A BUNCH OF SPACESHIP MALARKEY! THE SAME OLD DRIVEL! COULDN'T HAPPEN IN A MILLION YEARS

NOW WHO'S KIDDING? IT'S MORE REAL THAN YOU THINK!

SHADDUP! BE QUIET!

FACT IS...I--I SAW ONE OF THOSE FLYING SAUCERS MYSELF!

OH NO! NOT YOU, TOO! OH, THAT'S RICH!

ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR? IT WAS ON A HUNTING TRIP...ABOUT A WEEK AGO! IT WAS LIKE A FLATTENED TENNIS BALL...SKIMMING ALONG LIKE A METEOR...

LOOK..I CAME TO SEE A MOVIE.. NOT YOU!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF HALLUCINATIONS IMAGINATION PLAYING TRICKS?

I TELL YOU IT WAS THE REAL MCCOY! IT'S GUYS LIKE YOU...

I'M GOING TO CALL THE MANAGER!

YOU'RE REALLY BOILING NOW! WHO DOES FATSO THINK HE IS...TRYING TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU *DIDN'T* SEE?

YOU...ER...GENTLEMEN, CAN GET A REFUND AT THE BOX OFFICE! GOOD NIGHT!

I SUPPOSE YOU SAW A LOT OF LITTLE MEN! SPYING FOR A FUTURE INVASION, MAYBE? HA!

BUT ONCE OUTSIDE IN THE AIR, TEMPERS SIMMER DOWN AND YOU REALIZE YOU WERE PROBABLY MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF! AFTER ALL, WHAT IF *EVERY* MAN ON MARS SHOT OFF HIS MOUTH THE WAY *YOU* DID! THE WHOLE PLANET WOULD BECOME PANICKY!

MARS THEATRE

DO EARTHLINGS *REALLY* EXIST? DON'T MISS "THE EARTHLINGS ATTACK"!

MARS TOWERS

SORRY I LOST MY TEMPER! WE'RE ALL TOO JITTERY ABOUT THESE SAUCERS LATELY! FOR ALL WE KNOW, THEY MAY EVEN BE WORRYING THE PEOPLE ON EARTH, TOO!

TICKETS

EXTRA! PILOT REPORTS SEEING ANOTHER FLYING SAUCER! BELIEVED TO BE FROM PLANET EARTH!

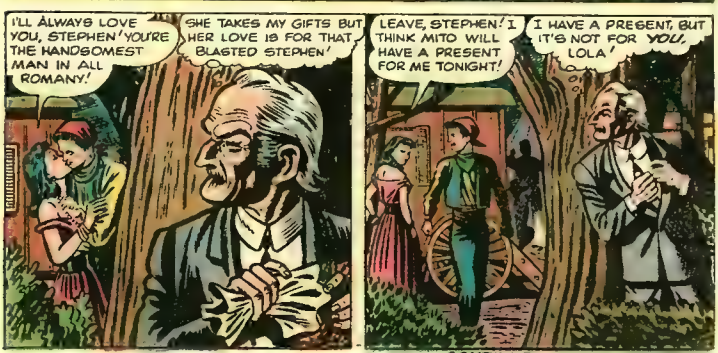
MARS TAXI SERVICE--

THE END

SURPRISE!

BUT I MUST PRETEND TO LIKE THE OLD MAN, STEPHEN... OR HE WOULD THROW OUR PEOPLE OFF HIS ESTATE!
I KNOW, LOLA! STILL I HATE THE WAY HE LOOKS AT YOU...
SO!
TERRIFYING MYSTERY FROM A WEIRD WORLD!
THE SCENE IS A GYPSY CAMP IN BOHEMIA ON THE ESTATE OF RICH OLD MITO VARGAY... WE JOIN MITO AS HE VISITS THE BEAUTIFUL GYPSY, LOLA...
ART: JACK KELLER

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN WEIRD WORLDS #16

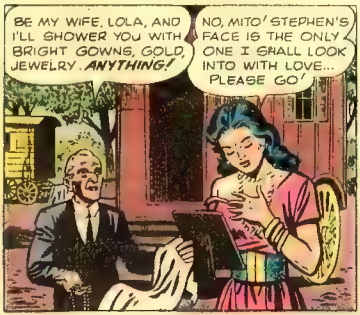

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, STEPHEN! YOU'RE THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN ALL ROMANY!
SHE TAKES MY GIFTS BUT HER LOVE IS FOR THAT BLASTED STEPHEN!
LEAVE, STEPHEN! I THINK MITO WILL HAVE A PRESENT FOR ME TONIGHT!
I HAVE A PRESENT, BUT IT'S NOT FOR YOU, LOLA!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

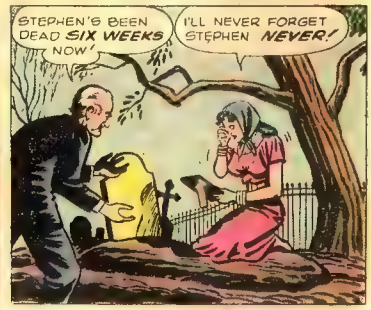
BUT EVEN AFTER STEPHEN WAS DEAD AND BURIED, LOLA STILL COULD NOT FORGET HIM

YOU MUST FORGET HIM, LOLA! STEPHEN'S BEEN DEAD TWO WEEKS!
I DON'T WANT YOUR GIFTS, MITO! I JUST WANT TO LOOK AT MY HANDSOME STEPHEN!

YET LOLA THOUGHT ONLY OF STEPHEN THE HANDSOME ONE


BE MY WIFE, LOLA, AND I'LL SHOWER YOU WITH BRIGHT GOWNS, GOLD, JEWELRY... ANYTHING!
NO, MITO! STEPHEN'S FACE IS THE ONLY ONE I SHALL LOOK INTO WITH LOVE... PLEASE GO!

AND MITO FELL MORE DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH LOLA AS THE WEEKS PASSED



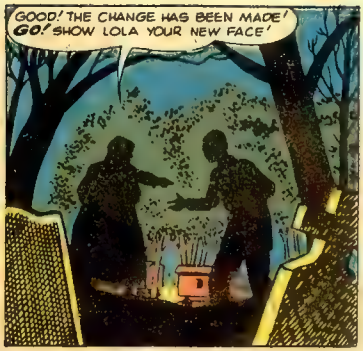
LOLA'S A FOOL! BUT I LOVE HER MADLY! I'D GIVE HALF MY RICHES TO HAVE STEPHEN'S FACE!
I CAN MAKE YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE STEPHEN, MITO!
2

WAR IS HELL! AND MARVEL PROVES IT— WITH ITS WEIRDEST NEW SERIES OF ALL!

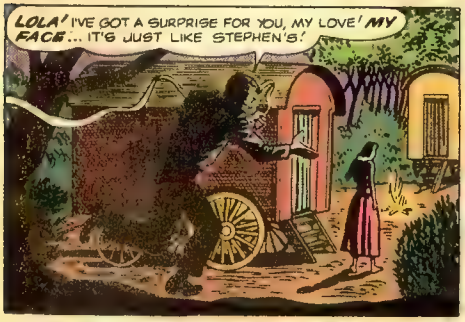
ARE YOU JOKING GYPSY? I'LL BANISH YOU FROM MY ESTATE.
I DO NOT JOKE ABOUT BLACK MAGIC! YOU WILL LOOK LIKE STEPHEN!
BE AT STEPHEN'S GRAVE TOMORROW AT MIDNIGHT! BRING A PICTURE OF STEPHEN AND A BAG OF GOLD!
ALL RIGHT! IF YOU DO IT, GYPSY I'LL FILL YOUR TENT WITH GOLD!
THE NEXT NIGHT
I HAVE THE PICTURE!
I KNOW! I AM READY TO BEGIN!
GIVE ME THE GOLD THEN I MUST BANDAGE YOUR FACE!
WELL HURRY UP!

STEPHEN...COME...STEPHEN...RETURN...GLING...GLING...UP FROM THE GRAVE .. STEPHEN...
NOW!
YOU CALL ME FROM THE GRAVE, WITCH? WHY?
I COMMAND YOU TO CHANGE FACES WITH MITO GLING GLING
NOW!
4

REMEMBER THE LIVING PHARAOH? NOW HE TAKES ON THE LIVING MUMMY!

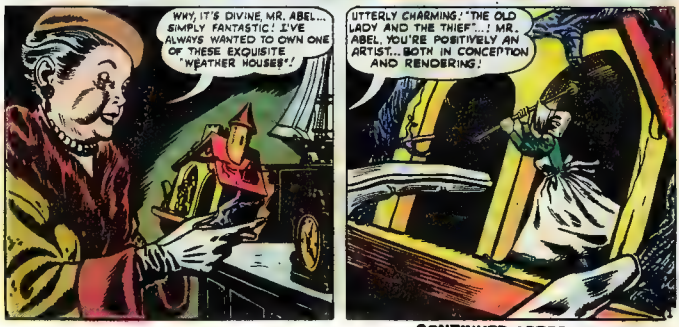


SO MITO RAN TO LOLA'S WAGON AND..



THE OLD MAN'S SECRET!
MAYBE THE JUMP FROM APPRENTICE TO MASTER IS TOO DANGEROUS! MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF YOU NEVER LEARN... THE OLD MAN'S SECRET!!
ART BY: JAY SCOTT PIKE

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN WEIRD WORLDS #6


WHY, IT'S DIVINE, MR. ABEL... SIMPLY FANTASTIC! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO OWN ONE OF THESE EXQUISITE "WEATHER HOUSES"!
UTTERLY CHARMING! "THE OLD LADY AND THE THIEF"...! MR. ABEL, YOU'RE POSITIVELY AN ARTIST... BOTH IN CONCEPTION AND RENDERING!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

..WHEN THE LADY EMERGED, I JUST KNEW THE WEATHER WOULD BE FAIR! AND HOW TERRIBLE WHEN THE MAN CAME OUT! THAT MEANT INCLEMENCY, FOUL CONDITIONS, YOU KNOW!
YAH, I KNOW!

THE RICH MATRON'S VOICE CLICKS ON UNCEASINGLY IN THE DINGY WORKSHOP OF JACOB ABEL, AND IN THE BACK WORKROOM, HANS, THE APPRENTICE, WATCHES...

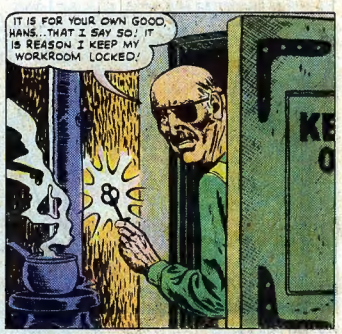
...OH, MY YES! TERRIBLY LIFE-LIKE... ALMOST GROTESQUE! HAVEN'T YOU SOMETHING LESS FRIGHTENING THAN THIS?
NAW! IT IS MY LAST ONE! I HAF TROUBLES GETTING THE RIGHT MATERIALS!

THE DOWAGER HANDS THE OLD MAN A HUGE ROLL OF BILLS! HANS WETS HIS LIPS WITH EXCITEMENT, HIS EYES BULGE WITH CUNNING INTEREST!

THE SON OF SATAN TAKES ON ALL ATLANTIS— IN MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #17!

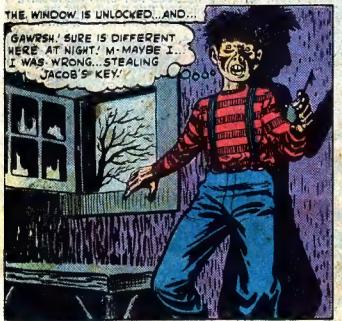
THE MIND OF DULL-WITTED HANS MAY BE SLOW...BUT A SMALL FEVER IS BEGINNING TO GLOW IN HIS THOUGHTS...
TREE HUNDRED AND TEN... TWENTY...TWENTY-FIVE! YAH...IS ALL THERE!
GARSH! JUST FOR THAT DOLL HOUSE!
JACOB! I...I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU!
HUH? OH...YOU, HANS! YAH...WHAT IS?
IT...IT'S ABOUT THOSE LITTLE HOUSES...AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE! JACOB...LEARN ME HOW TO CARVE THEM... HUH?
YOU WANT TO WHAT? YOU?? ...MY LITTLE PEOPLE?!
YOU ARE MAKING JOKE...NO? YOU WITH THE STUPID FINGERS AND HEAD! YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FLUNKY AND BOY FOR ERRANDS! MAYBE SOME CARVING I TEACH YOU... YES!
B-BUT...BUT, JACOB! GAWRSH! I CAN DO THOSE LITTLE PEOPLE ...IF YOU LEARN ME THE SECRETS!
NO! NO, HANS! YOU MUST NOT EVER WANT TO KNOW THE SECRETS! I TEACH YOU TO CARVE OTHER THINGS... YES!
STATUES I CAN TEACH YOU! BUT NOT THE LITTLE PEOPLE! I CANNOT TRUST NOBODY WITH MY METHODS! AND IT IS NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO KNOW SOME THINGS I HAF LEARNED!
HE DOES NOT WANT ME TO HAVE MONEY! BUT I FIND OUT HIS SECRET ONE WAY..OR OTHER!

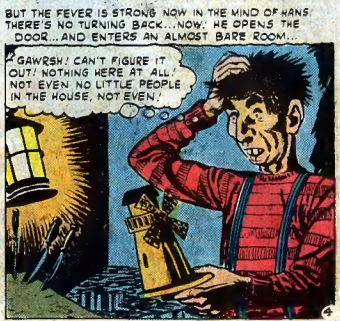
THE SECRET... THE OLD MAN'S SECRET.' THE IDEA BEATS LIKE A DRUM... OVER AND OVER AGAIN... TAKES FEVERISH ROOT IN THE MIND OF HANS.'
AND I TELL YOU WHEN YOU FIRST COME TO WORK FOR ME... STAY OUT OF MY PRIVATE WORKROOM!
THERE'S WHERE HE KEEPS HIS SECRET!'



SOMEWHERE IN THE LITTLE ROOM THE WAY TO A FORTUNE EXISTS.' AND THAT NIGHT HANS IS UNABLE TO REST...
I... I'LL GO THERE... NOW! THE OLD MAN WILL BE ASLEEP!'

DOWN THE BACK ALLEY RUNNING NEXT TO THE SHOP, A NERVOUS, WIDE-EYED FIGURE CREEPS SILENTLY...
GAWRSH! I... I DIDN'T KNOW HOW... HOW SCARY IT IS OUT HERE AT NIGHT!




BUT THE FEVER IS STRONG NOW IN THE MIND OF HANS! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK... NOW! HE OPENS THE DOOR... AND ENTERS AN ALMOST BARE ROOM...
GAWRSH! CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT! NOTHING HERE AT ALL! NOT EVEN NO LITTLE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE, NOT EVEN!

REMEMBER THE BANEFUL BADOON? WELL THEY'RE BACK— IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #5!

SUDDENLY ANGER...BOLDNESS...REPLACE ALL OTHER EMOTION! HANS FEELS CHEATED...TERRIBLY CHEATED! IN A FURY, HE PAWS RECKLESSLY THROUGH EVERYTHING...

IN DESPERATION HANS FEELS ALONG THE WALL! MAYBE THERE'S A MOVEABLE PANEL...ANYTHING! ANYTHING BUT THE VOICE WHICH SUDDENLY BREAKS IN FROM THE DOORWAY...

I...I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING! I'M NOT L-LOOKING FOR...!
IT IS TOO LATE! I WARNED YOU...AND YOU DID NOT LISTEN! I SHOW YOU THE SECRET, HANS... I SHOW YOU NOW!

A SCREAM IN THE NIGHT...THEN SILENCE! AND NOW, THE NEXT DAY, ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE SHOP OF JACOB ABEL!

I...I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH HUMAN-LIKE FEATURES AND THE EXPRESSION IS SO EXTRA-ORDINARILY CARVED! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT'S NOT... NOT BREATHING!!
THE END